

The Emitter June 1999

President's QSO

Ed Rollor - N4ZRA

A club is a group of persons organized for 1) the achievement of some particular purpose, and/or 2) for social enjoyment and entertainment. But just what is an Amateur Radio Club? For our answer let us go back to the basics and look at the FCC Rules and Regulations that express what amateur radio is.

FCC Rules and Regulations Part 97.1 Basis and purpose.

The rules and regulations in this part are designed to provide an amateur radio service having a fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles:

(a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.

Ed's comment: The ARC does well here. However, several members have stated that we need to be more visible at public service events so that we can fulfill part d (more on that in a moment). We now have a 6-ft. X 2.5-ft. ARC banner to put up at events and brochures to hand out to people who are interested in Ham Radio. I think these were good ideas since I have been asked many times for information on the ARC at past events. Several individuals even expressed an interest in getting their license.

(b) Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.

Ed's comment: This is an area that we need some work. Perhaps some homebrewing projects would be beneficial. Some clubs do offer homebrewing programs. In Massachusetts the Billerica Amateur Radio Society members built several regenerative shortwave receivers as a club project. What did they accomplish in this effort? Members learned basic soldering skills, construction techniques, coil winding, and basic radio theory. Parents worked with their children, which helped build good relationships and a radio! We have people in the club that can help us in this direction.

(c) Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the art.

Ed's comment: We need to help each other to obey the rules and to practice good operating skills. As club members that have good working relationships we need to be open and honest and let each other know about mistakes. While on 10-meters the other day I was speaking with a new Tech. Plus that confessed that he knew little about HF operating procedures. He requested that I tell him of any mistakes that he was making during his conversation with me. We all need to be willing to accept helpful comments even though they may seem like attacks at the time.

(d) Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts.

Ed's comment: I think we would all like to see a strong healthy club that is made up of Amateur Operators who want to make a difference in their community and that are trained operators, technicians and electronic experts. I am concerned because statistics show that amateur licenses are down. The 1998 data shows 17,956 new amateurs. That is down 6341 from the 1997 total. In 1998, 11,119 hams upgraded their license, down from 13,380 in 1997. There are approximately 667,481 licensed hams in the US and 6283 clubs. I believe the ARC

has taken steps in the right direction. We will be offering Novice classes in September. This is a great opportunity to get that family member or close friend into ham radio. We need help getting the word out so we would appreciate all club members supporting this effort with encouragement and letting others know about the classes. As we get Novice license people we hope to provide upgrade classes. Perhaps this is what you need. However, at the present time Scott Sikes, KD4MSR, is conducting Morse Code sessions every Sunday and Thursday nights. If you are trying to get your code up then here is your chance. Go ahead and get upgraded to that Tech Plus. This will give you some incentive to move on up to General. I personally tried to learn code first, but then realized that I needed a swift kick to encourage me to work at the code. I studied 2 weeks for the General written exam and passed with a 93. Now I can hardly stop to take a break on the weekends from studying the code. Not only that but I am now studying for the Advance exam. The option of studying on your own or waiting on the upgrade classes is yours, but please make an effort!

As mentioned above we are making an effort to draw public attention to our hobby by being more visible and providing materials about Amateur Radio and the ARC. I would like to make some other suggestions in this area.

June 19th is Kid's Day (1800 to 2400 UTC). The Boring (Oregon) Amateur Radio Club started this event a few years ago, and members asked the ARRL to assist with sponsorship in 1999. This event is designed to attract young people into our hobby. This should be easy for us as club members since it doesn't require much time or effort to set up. All you have to do is to invite kids to come visit your ham shack for 15 minutes or more to talk to other kids who have been invited to do the same thing. Don't waste this opportunity. Perhaps you can find someone else in the club to set up with you in a public location to handle this event. We can provide you with brochures to hand out to interested individuals.

Another great opportunity for public awareness is Field Day (June 26, 27). Sign up and come take part in this fast paced fun competition and social event! If you can't make it that weekend then perhaps you can put up some ads for the club advertising the event or hand out some of our brochures. If you do not sign up, but then later have time to come by to visit for awhile, please do so.

(e) Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill.

Ed's Comment: Now how can you enhance international good will unless you have the ability to contact international stations? One way we can continue and extend our ability to enhance international good will is by upgrading to a level that allows us to make foreign contacts.

Perhaps we now have a good working outline for some of the things our club should be like according to the definition I gave at the beginning based on the FCC Rules and Regulations. That leaves us with the next part of the definition: social enjoyment and entertainment. We now have time set aside before the meetings to have this type of interaction. This is an important time because it helps us to develop relationships that will work for the benefit of the club, the community and for us individually. Often this is a time of learning more about our hobby from other club members. I would like to see the club offer more opportunities like this. We will be having our summer picnic and foxhunt soon, but why not have some other activities during the year? In summary, I would like to see us apply ourselves to building a club that:

1. encourages family members to be involved,
2. offers training during club meetings that will help us to upgrade and become better operators,

3. provides the community with good service and is visible in the public sector so as to promote our hobby, and
4. provide more social events that provide educational experience and welcome family members.

The Athens Radio Club plays an important part in the community and in our individual lives. It should not take top priority in our lives, but each of us should take time to determine at what level we should be involved. Some members need a little help, others some encouragement, and some an opportunity to serve. Please take the time to determine your level of priority and ask yourself what you can offer the club in time and talents.

Emitted Sept, 1999

Received: from SpoolDir by MERC (Mercury 1.43); 28 Aug 99 21:27:59 EDT
Return-path: <owner-arc@Enterprise.Giffords.NET>
Received: from Enterprise.Giffords.NET (208.21.42.2) by merc.rx.uga.edu (Mercury 1.43) with E
28 Aug 99 21:27:51 EDT
Received: (from tinlist@localhost)
by Enterprise.Giffords.NET (8.9.3/8.9.3) id VAA11585
for arc-outgoing; Sat, 28 Aug 1999 21:26:22 -0400 (EDT)
(envelope-from owner-arc@tin-can.net)
Received: from pentium1.hartcom.net ([208.128.109.4])
by Enterprise.Giffords.NET (8.9.3/8.9.3) with ESMTP id VAA11580
for <arc@tin-can.net>; Sat, 28 Aug 1999 21:26:16 -0400 (EDT)
(envelope-from matthewt@hartcom.net)
Received: from hartcom.net ([207.0.11.67]) by pentium1.hartcom.net
(Netscape Messaging Server 3.54) with ESMTP id 208
for <arc@tin-can.net>; Sat, 28 Aug 1999 21:25:36 -0500
Message-ID: <37C88C2F.71B681BB@hartcom.net>
Date: Sat, 28 Aug 1999 21:26:10 -0400
From: "Matthew Temples" <matthewt@hartcom.net>
Reply-To: matthewt@hartcom.net
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.5 [en] (Win95; I)
X-Accept-Language: en
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: arc@tin-can.net
Subject: [arc] September Newsletter
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1
Sender: owner-arc@tin-can.net
Precedence: bulk
Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable
X-MIME-Autoconverted: from 8bit to quoted-printable by Enterprise.Giffords.NET id VAB1158

**The Athens Radio Club
September 1999**

President - Ed Rollor, N4ZRA <erollor@merc.rx.uga.edu>
Vice President - James Reeves, KF4AQO <jlreeves@mindspring.com>
Secretary - Phil Koehler, KE4TYV <pkoehler@arches.uga.edu>
Treasurer - Paul Smith, N4CUA <psmith@negia.net>
Public Information Officer - Dave McElhannon, KE4EOI
<dmcElhannon@hotmail.com>
Repeater Trustee - Bill Strickland, K4DX <strick@arches.uga.edu>
Executive Committee Member - Jeff Crowell, KD4AOZ
<dcrowell@arches.uga.edu>
Executive Committee Member - Richard Matthews, KR4OS
<matthews@elbert.k12.ga.us>
Executive Committee Member - Ed Riddle, N4ALE <edriddle@negia.net>
Executive Committee Member - Ken Schroder, N4NFI <kcs@rx.uga.edu>

Executive Committee Member - Tommy Strickland, KD4DTV

<twstrick@arches.uga.edu>

Public Service Coordinator - Bob Herrin, KE4JLL <berrin@bellsouth.net>

Membership Committee Chairman - Steve Schwab, KU4OH

<sschwab@cdgroup.com>

Activity Chairman - Dan Daniels, AE4HS <wildwing@negia.net>

Emitter Editor - Matthew Temples, KE4WTZ <ke4wtz@yahoo.com>

President's QSO

Ed Rollor - N4ZRA

Last month I discussed what an amateur radio club should be and made some comments on how I think the Athens Radio Club is doing and what needs to be done in the future. We all share the same problem when it comes to clubs. We enjoyed them, but do not always have the time to be involved as we should or want to be. I would certainly hope that we all would put our families first. However, we should keep in mind that ham radio is more than a hobby and that we do have community responsibilities. It is important for our family members' see us take part in helping others. I have tried to take at least one family member with me to each event that the club helps with. This helps my family to understand that I do want to help others and also spend time with them. This time also serves to set an example on how to serve. The exposure to other hams also has been good for my family. They have had the opportunity to see the desire of my colleagues to work together. This teamwork concept that permeates amateur radio makes communicators like us an important resource. Although difficult to explain we have a bond that makes it easy for us to work together in difficult situations and at times difficult people. We lookout for one another and do our best to help others who need our help in their time of need. As discussed last month we can help build this teamwork concept by working together at events, helping each other with projects and upgrading, and encouraging one another. I also discussed the social recreation aspect of building relationships to make a good club so that there is a strong teamwork concept. Teamwork is important, but there are other details that also play an important part. For example, equipment can be a weak link in our teamwork efforts. The first item on your list should be some good quality radios. A good HF rig will not only provide you with many hours of SSB activity, but also help you build your operating skills and help you build up the Morse Code speed that you so desperately want to increase. I have heard several HF operators share helpful tips, discuss antenna, emergency power, emergency operating procedures and other interesting topics. This "on-the-air" training usually draws comments from others with more helpful tips and insight to problems. Yes, I know, HF rigs are expensive. It took me 30 years to get one. I think individuals and the club as a whole is going to have to think of

creative ways to help each other out in this respect. On a community level it is important to have a rig for local communications work. Some of our events are worked on simplex, so you need a good radio with some power, especially with our terrain. I suggest you find a good 50-watt 2-meter rig for this type of work.

Secondly, you should have spare antennas and all the coax cable you need to rebuild or establish an emergency station at another location. The ARRL journal, QST, provides all different types of antenna designs that anyone can build. In fact, in the July 1999 issue there is an excellent article for converting a Radio Shack FM antenna to a 2-meter yagi for less than \$25.00. The articles discussing HF antennas offer all types of possibilities for those with limited space and budgets. At the August meeting we showed off antennas and different rigs. While I am talking about antennas I also suggest that you buy a SWR meter. Since getting one I have used it weekly.

Thirdly, you need to devise a system for emergency power. Although there are better choices, a simple setup with a 12-volt car battery and a solar charger are a good start. You also want to make sure that you have extra batteries for your portable radio equipment as well as your flashlight.

Our club meetings are designed to build teamwork and to help us become stronger links in our working together. It is important that we understand what our club is trying to accomplish. By making an assessment of your commitment and of your equipment you are contributing to a group that can accomplish some amazing tasks. Make a list of what you want to accomplish and share with the rest of you club members. Set a goal by starting with the simple steps and work your way up. Re-examine your priorities to make sure you are on the right track. Do not let equipment make you a weak link in the system.

Athens Radio Club Minutes, August 3, 1999

Phil Koehler, KE4TYV - Secretary ARC

President Ed Rollor, N4ZRA, called the meeting to order at 7:47pm with introductions of the 19 members and guests present. The meeting was preceded by informal cook-out. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as distributed in the last issue of the Emitter.

Treasurer, Paul Smith, N4CUA, reported a balance of \$236.58 in the treasury. So far there are 49 members--38 full and 11 family memberships.

Public Informaion Officer, David, KE4EOI, reported that our club meeting are now announced in the club notices in the Athens newspapers. He will try to see that the address of our meeting place (shack) gets in future announcements. ARC will participate in the Memeory Walk at the mall September 18.

Scott, KD4MSR, reported that as of yesterday's VE Test Session Ed Rollor, N4ZRA is a General Class operator.

Dan, AE4HS, Activities Chairman, reported on upcoming events:

The ARC Family Picnic/Fox Hunt will be held at Picnic Shelter #1 at 2:00pm Saturday, Aug 14. The club will provide franks, chips, drinks and plates. Please bring a covered dish to share. Ed, N4ALE, will hide the transmitter for the Fox Hunt. You can participate with only a handheld using body shielding or bring as sophisticated antennas or directions finders as you wish.

Radio classes will begin September 9 at the club shack. Let anyone you know interested in radio know about these. Hams from Tech to advanced will be helped with upgrading. It was suggested that a small add be taken out in the newspaper to promote these classes.

The following suggestions were offered for possible future ARC activities:

Tail-Gate Party at Winterville Park - Moved, seconded and approved to hold this in November. Dan is to check on dates when Winterville Park is available.

Sponsor Special Events Station (Double-barreled cannon, Watson Mill Covered Bridge, Tree that owns itself, etc.) Don Bullard will work up detail and club will vote on this at next meeting.

Home-brew (builders) night

Antenna Building Party

Camp-out/mini-field day at Watson's Mill Park.

Please let Dan know what you are interested in!!

Dan, AE4HS, and Scott, KD4MSR, are to investigate changing the club station call sign to a memorial call, KD4QHB, in honor of ARC silent key James Oxford.

A card was sent to Jerry Murchison. (Jerry has since passed away).

Meeting adjourned by the president and the members remained to rag-chew and use the club transmitter.

Respectively submitted,

**Phil Koehler, KE4TYV
Secretary ARC**

Repeater Proposal

Ed Rollor - N4ZRA & Jeff Crowell - KD4AOZ

Proposal from Jeff Crowell (KD4AOZ)

The following proposal will be voted on at the next club meeting (Sept. 7). Pleased be prepared to ask questions and express any concerns that you may have.

1. Jeff Crowell, KD4AOZ, will move the Athens Radio Club repeater to his UHF site off of the Atlanta Hwy.

2. Jeff will provide the metal cabinet for housing the equipment.
3. Jeff will provide the hardline cable.
4. Club members will provide funds for a dual band antenna for the new site via donations. The total cost of the antenna will be \$260.00.
5. Since there is no access to phone lines at this site, there will be no autopatch.
6. After a 1-month period the club will evaluate the effective range of the ARC repeater at the new site.
 - a. If the site provides adequate coverage then the ARC will evaluate the cost and value of an auto patch.
 - b. If the site proves to be inadequate or inappropriate, the ARC will move the repeater back to the original site or another location.

First Home Game!

Bob Herrin – KE4JLL

The first UGA home game is Saturday, Sept 4! As usual, we LEAVE the T-Bones parking lot 2 hours before the published time of the game. Since kickoff is at 6 p.m., we will leave the parking lot at 4, so be there early if you plan to ride over with the group. If you need to come in late, monitor 146.55. That's the frequency we usually use for in-stadium communications - we'll talk you in from there.

As a reminder, there are a few things to remember:

- bring a spare battery pack along with the fully-charged pack that is on your HT!
- bring HEADPHONES!! With the crowd noise, a one-ear plug won't let you hear
- a speaker-mic is highly recommended!
- a box meal is usually provided, but not always. Bring \$\$ for food if you want to be guaranteed a meal!

Come ready to work and to have a good time! Since this is a late-starting game, I'm sure we'll be quite busy -- especially if the weather is as hot as it has been lately!

See you there!

Upcoming Events

Ed Rollor – N4ZRA / Ken Schroder – N4NFI

Alzheimer's Association 1999 Memory Walk

The Athens Radio Club will be providing communications for the Alzheimer's Association 1999 Memory Walk to be held around Georgia

Square Mall on the morning of Saturday, September 18th. The walk is a 5k and will go around the mall loop road and into the surrounding neighborhoods. Memory Walk is the event that helps the chapter raise funds and increase awareness, not only about Alzheimer's disease but also about the services the chapter provides for the families of the 52,000 people in the North East Georgia area who have been diagnosed with this devastating disease. Sept.18 is not a UGA home game day. Ken, N4NFI will provide more information about the event and will pass around a sign up sheet at the September club meeting.

American Red Cross Pet Fest

The Athens Radio Club will also be providing communications for the American Red Cross Pet Fest on September 18 at Bishop Park. Two to four communicators may be needed from 10:00 AM to Noon. Further information will be sent out on the arc listserver on Sept. 15.

Amateur Radio Training Classes

Starting Thursday Sept. 9 ARC will be offering training classes. Although the main goal will be to provide training for those interested in passing their Novice Exam, the class will provide an excellent opportunity for anyone who wants to learn the basics of amateur radio so that they may advance in any license class. Morse code will be taught also. Classes will be from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday night for 8 weeks. We have 4 sign-ups so far. Contact Dan Daniels (AE4HS) at (706) 742-777 to sign-up in advance or just show up on the 9th!

Boy Scout Radio Jamboree On-the-Air

This is an excellent opportunity for the ARC to promote amateur radio in a positive manner and get more young people involved. This event is on the weekend of Oct. 16 and 17 at Sandy Creek Park. Dan, AE4HS, will have more details at the next club meeting.

ARC Tailgate and Bone Yard Party

Dan, AE4HS, is planning a tailgate party for late October or early November. If you have any comments or suggestions concerning this event please call the ARC Activities and Education Chairman, Dan Daniels, (AE4HS) at (706) 742-2777.

The Cherokee Capital Amateur Radio Society's Request to Coordinate a Repeater on 146.745 MHz
By Ed Rollor, N4ZRA

For the record I thought it would be a good idea to document the entire history of the communications concerning the Cherokee Capital Amateur

Radio Society's request to coordinate a repeater in Calhoun, Georgia.

The first request was sent to Matthew Temples:

From: "Rose Ballard" <rosebud@nwga.com>
To: "Matthew Temples" <matthewt@hartcom.net>
Subject: Repeater of Athens Radio Club
Date sent: Wed, 4 Aug 1999 18:01:54 -0400

Your name was furnished by James Fonte, SERA repeater coordinator. Would you please supply me with a point of contact for the Athens Radio Club including name & phone number?

For your information, The Calhoun radio club, Cherokee Capital Amateur Radio Society, is attempting coordination of a repeater on 146.745. Low power is anticipated to cover our immediate area. Due to existing terrain between Athens & Calhoun, our coordinator feels we can both operate on the same frequency. Telephone contact will be made with your local representative ASAP.

Due to vacation plans, your immediate reply would be appreciated. Thank you! Best 73's.

**Russ Ballard, W0OER
e-mail: w0oer@nwga.com**

After receiving the request, Matthew notified me via phone and forwarded the letter. I posted the letter on the ARC Listserver and sent Mr. Ballard via e-mail Bob Richard's, AA4AI, phone number since Bob is our Repeater Trustee. Bob discussed the details with Mr. Ballard later that evening and the posted the following message to the .ARC Executive Committee Listserver:

From: Richards <richards@athens.net>
To: "ARC Executive Committee" <arcex@merc.rx.uga.edu>
Subject: repeater
Date sent: Thu, 05 Aug 1999 22:48:40 -0400
Send reply to: arcex@merc.rx.uga.edu

I was contacted by the fella from the Calhoun area about their desire to put up a repeater on .745. I will be getting some paperwork to fill out probably dealing with my thoughts on the matter. As I see it, we are in a situation where I cannot complain at all about this. We have cast our lot with Clarke county and Clarke county doesn't care about us. So not relocating to another private tower of substantial height a year or more ago has reduced our presence on the 2 meter band to the point where no one hears us.

This may not be a problem though. As I remember the olden days, Winder was the limit going west for the ARC repeater. Part of that was scratchy mobile sigs. and part from Stone Mtn. interfering at the mobile's end. Plus we can tone the input to keep stuff out. If we hear the Calhoun repeater in Athens, it will be like hearing Andrews Robbins

on Jeff's freq. The only way we will ever have a machine that will go to Gwinnet Place Mall is to have the antenna at 200 ft. more and I don't see that happening.

I suppose this all can be summed up by saying that the repeater was a good thing for the club. It was a party line that club members and others used to keep in touch on a daily basis. The shack doesn't do that. It is handy of course. No doubt about it. I remember wandering from one meeting place to another.

Our commitment to the shack location has cost us. Athens is a major city and needs a major repeater presence. That means an antenna at 180 ft. at least. Jeff offered the tower that the AA4AI repeater is on and it was turned down. It might be close enough to not require recoordination. That tower won't get us the 180 ft. but it's something.

Then there is the possibility of a free-standing pole which won't be real high.

Time to reconsider things guys? Let's get this thing going.

73 ...Bob

Within a few days we received the following letter in the mail:

Athens Radio Club WA4BKF
1070 Bradham Drive
Watkinsville, GA 30677-1845

"Greetings to the Athens Radio Club from Calhoun, Georgia."

Calhoun and Gordon County have long been in need of a repeater that would serve the needs of our community. We have made applications for the frequency of 146.745 and expect to operate on low power, maximum of 25 watts, with antenna only high enough to cover our immediate area. Our conversation with the SERA coordinator, James Fonte, has indicated that due to distance and terrain between Athens and Calhoun no prom exists. We want the Athens Radio Club to be aware of our plans and to please reply to this letter, so stating any problems or conditions existing or expected if a repeater is operating on said frequency in Calhoun, Georgia area. Such a letter from you will be forwarded to our frequency coordinator before any action takes place. Many hours have been spent monitoring 146.745 with no signals received. We are also unable to contact any station and said frequency. Your prompt reply to this letter will be appreciated. 73

Russell Ballard, W0OER
157 Hanover Circle, SE
Calhoun, GA 30701-4150

CC: N4ZRA and WA4FVT

At this time I called James Fonte and then posted the following on the

ARC Listserv the next day:

I called James Fonte (W4JMF, Director, GA District, SERA, Inc.) last night to ask him about the Cherokee Capital Radio Society's request to coordinate a repeater on 146.745 in Calhoun. Mr. Fonte explained that at this time there are no other frequencies available to the Calhoun club. The Calhoun club believes that there are enough geographical structures (ridges, hills and mountains) between their site and ours to prevent interference except during major band openings. Their maximum tower height would be less than 100 ft. The proposed Calhoun site is 89 miles from our site. Under normal circumstances, the SERA maintains following a recommended repeater distance spacing of 100 miles for 144-148 MHz. Since some judgments concerning distances are based on various technical parameters of the proposed repeater, decisions can be made at the discretion of the Frequency Coordinator. Because the Calhoun repeater site falls short of the 100 miles required by SERA to coordinate the repeater, Mr. Fonte sees this as a special situation in which the coordinator can request the two clubs to work together to help provide communications for the club that is without a repeater. In other words, he considers this to be one of those special cases that requires him to be a moderator to solve a problem of one club without causing problems for another club. He encourages the two clubs to work together since there are technical parameters in favor of maintaining two repeaters on 146.745 MHz at the distance of 89 miles. He stated that ham operators should work together in these types of endeavors so that amateur radio can grow and not continue to dwindle. Mr. Fonte expressed his concerns about the competition between amateur radio clubs over frequencies. He is disappointed that many clubs have the concept that they own a particular frequency. He continued to point out that no club owns a frequency, but is designated a frequency that is to be used wisely. When the Cherokee Capital Radio Society contacted him, he requested that they contact us and let us know of their need. He asked that they acquire from us written permission to allow them to coordinate a repeater in their area with a list of our terms of conditions. It is the responsibility of the Calhoun club to follow all requests made by the Athens Radio Club to work in concert to establish a repeater site in their area that will not interfere with our communications. Mr. Fonte insisted that the Calhoun club use methods to null signals in our direction. The Calhoun club is required to run tests in accordance with our requests to be certain that there are no problems. Mr. Fonte strongly suggested that we use CTCSS on our own repeater. He suspects that in the near future other repeater sites to our south will be coordinated that could cause interference despite a 100-mile separation.

I recommend that all ARC members visit the SERA website at www.sera.org.

After some careful thought and some input from ARC club members it was

decide that we should make an honest attempt to look more closely at the situation. Jeff, KD4AOZ and I planned a trip to visit the proposed repeater site and to discuss matters with the Calhoun club. The following e-mail was sent:

Edward A. Rollor III
69 Thrasher Drive
Watkinsville, Georgia 30677

August 13, 1999

W0OER
Russell Ballard Sr.
157 Hanover Circle SE
Calhoun, GA 30701-4150

Dear Mr. Ballard,

On the evening of August 10th I had a phone conversation with SERA coordinator Mr. James Fonte. Mr. Fonte stressed the importance of amateur operators working together to solve problems with frequency coordination. He explained the situation concerning the coordination of a Calhoun repeater. He asked that the Athens Radio Club (ARC) play an active part in working through the details of establishing a practical relationship with the Cherokee Capital Radio Society in evaluating and coordinating a repeater on the 146.745 MHz frequency. I truly appreciate Mr. Fonte's desire to see us work together and it is obvious that his wise advice is based on years of experience and his commitment for amateur radio.

Since the decisions concerning your request must be voted on by the ARC membership, we think it would be wise to follow Mr. Fonte's advise. It is difficult to work through all the details without discussing the fine points face-to-face. Therefore, ARC members will take the initiative and responsibility to visit with you and other Cherokee Capital Amateur Radio Society members before our next club meeting (Sept. 7) to gain further information and to see the proposed site. Once representatives from both clubs have met the ARC representatives can then transfer reliable information to the rest of the members.

We look forward to meeting with you and the rest of the Cherokee Capital Amateur Radio Society members.

May I suggest that we meet on Saturday August 21th at 12:30 P.M. at the Cherokee Café on Hwy. 41.

Looking forward to meeting you then.

Sincerely,

Ed Rollor N4ZRA

President

Athens Radio Club

cc: James Fonte

UPDATE:

On August 19th at 9:25 P.M. I received a call from Russ Ballard concerning the scheduled meeting between ARC representatives and the Cherokee Capital Radio Society. Mr. Ballard explained that he had just returned from out of town and was unable to contact any other members concerning the meeting. He stated that club members would not be able to meet with us on Saturday as planned since they were all out of town except for 2 of them. Mr. Ballard would not be able to make the meeting since he is a Seventh Day Adventist and would be in church on Saturday. The other available club member works on Saturday.

Mr. Ballard once again explained that he has monitored the ARC frequency for many hours and has never heard any traffic and that he is at one of the highest locations in the Calhoun area. The Cherokee Capital Radio Society would like for us to help establish a repeater that would cover approximately 10 to 15 miles. He also stated that they would be willing to operate at only 5 to 10 watts if that was part of our request.

I told Mr. Ballard that we would try to make another attempt at visiting the Calhoun club to discuss details. I also explained that without all the details that the ARC would most likely not approve the coordination of the Calhoun repeater.

APRS Update

Ed Rollor – N4ZRA

I want to thank Mike Ellerson and Nick Bettis for the APRS program that they presented. The program got things rolling for Athens to have an APRS node. The present state of the APRS node is as follows:

- 1. We need a power supply. However, Jeff, KD4AOZ is looking for one and should have one soon.**
- 2. The TNC is wired and ready to go.**
- 3. The radio has been donated and is ready to go.**
- 4. The antenna is up but has water in it. That problem will be fixed soon.**

I appreciate club members expressing their interests so that we as a club can work together to get things done. If you have a certain area of interest, please contact me.

Ed

N4ZRA

Scanner Corner

Bob Herrin – KE4JLL

Well, I finally broke down and bought a new toy, a Uniden Bearcat BC245XLT. I've been thinking about getting a trunk-tracking scanner since they first came out, but I held back because of the limitations of the first generation of trackers. The 245 is nice! Not only does it track 800 mhz trunked systems, it also follows 900 mhz, 400 mhz, and Erickson systems. And it can trunk more than one trunked system at a time. It will also follow trunked and non-trunked at the same time, something that first generation scanners won't do! For a great review of this scanner, see the September 1999 issue of Monitoring Times magazine.

I won't go into a lot about trunked systems and what they are, because Mike Ellerson has already done a great job of that. Just check out the club web page for an excellent description of trunked radio and what's occurring locally. What I do want to talk about in this column is what I'm discovering about the Athens/Clarke County (A/CC) and UGA systems. The primer for this information is contained in Mike's web article, so I'll go into what I am learning.

First of all, playing with a trunking scanner is different from a conventional scanner. First of all, you have to be in trunking mode to program frequencies, something I learned the hard way! Then you have to give consideration to a fleet map. The A/CC and University systems use the "default" fleet map for the latest of the Motorola trunking systems, so that isn't too bad. The next thing I had to learn about was IDs. This is actually a Good Thing! With IDs you can organize your listening by function, and for me this has been easier to pick up than remembering what frequency is assigned to what service. One of the great things about the Trunk Tracker II (the other name for the BC 245XLT) is that you can search for IDs. There is also a wealth of information on the internet. In my next column I'll discuss some of those.

This morning (August 22) I was searching for IDs, and found some activity for the first time on the frequencies assigned to A/CC (UGA has already activated their trunking system and is actively using it). The frequencies assigned to A/CC are:

856.2375	856.4375	856.7625
856.9375		
857.2375	857.4375	857.7625
857.9375		

This morning I discovered the following IDs while A/CC was testing their radios:

1616: East Side Dispatch
8016: A/CC Fire
1744: A/CC Police

9648: ???
20480: ???

To be sure I was getting A/CC, I programmed in the 800 mhz frequencies to my conventional scanner, a Radio Shack Pro 2045. I made sure that the ID I was logging matched a local frequency. I'm sure there are more IDs out there, and I'll be reporting on them as I find them.

As an adjunct to this column, and for the general scanner community in NE Georgia, I've started a listserv just for us. It's hosted by OneList, a free service. I subscribe to several of their lists and have been very happy with the service. To subscribe, point your web browser to:

www.onelist.com/subscribe/scan_neg

You'll be prompted from there. Till next time, 73's.

ARC Equipment
Ed Rollor - N4ZRA

ARC members,
Paul, N4CUA, is working on the ARC equipment insurance form. We have the serial numbers, but do not know the value for each piece of equipment. I have posted the list below. If you know the value of any of the listed items, please send Paul a note. BTW, thanks to Don, WA4IML, for dropping by the club shack after the picnic and putting together this list. I appreciate him taking time to help.

Drake TR7 Transceiver S/N 2273
Drake PS7 Power Supply S/N 2428
Drake RV7 Remote VFO S/N 3487
Drake MS7 External Speaker (No S/N)
Drake Desk Mic by Astatic (No S/N)

CDE Transmit/Receive Directional Control Box (No S/N)
Model Ham-II CD44 Series 1630
Generic 6 outlet power strip

Maggiore Electronics Laboratory VHF FM Repeater
Model Hi-Pro Mark II S/N Y-517803

Duplexer Model D04048, S/N 45073

Regency VHF FM Repeater
FCC ID ARU9PL MCCH06RA

CAT 300 Repeater Controller (Didn't find a S/N)

Local Ham's Personal Webpages

Matthew Temples – KE4WTZ

N4TMI: <http://www.ai.uga.edu/~mc>
KC4UVW: <http://www.CovingtonInnovations.com/melody>
KG4EBD: <http://www.CovingtonInnovations.com/cathy>
KE4SVC: <http://www.negia.net/~ruff/>
KU4JH: <http://community-1.webtv.net/ku4jh/doc/index.html>
KE4WTZ: <http://geocities.com/Heartland/Cottage/9910/>

If you have a page that you'd like listed here also, please drop me an e-mail at ke4wtz@yahoo.com and I'll be glad to add it here. Thank-you.

Word from the editor

Matthew Temples – KE4WTZ

In searching back through old e-mails to find pertinent information to include in this month's Emitter, I came across an e-mail that bears repeating in part, I think.

“....We have a great club, but members have gotten use to certain individuals doing the work. I hope that is about to change and everyone will pitch in and make the ARC a club that is run by the members for the members. Every member has a right to know what is going on and to make comments. I have no agenda to be some dictator and to accomplish my hidden plans. I want members to know that they are the most important element of the club and that I will do all I can to let them and help them have a strong active club that we can all be proud of. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the next club meeting. Please come and enjoy a night of spending time on the radio. “

I think this sums up a great deal in one simple idea. We are all part of a great club that has been around for years, and it is up to us all to help keep it around for many more great years to come. Let's all do our individual part to help make this happen, whether it's in roles of leadership, to being dedicated club members, to bringing in new people into the ranks of amateur radio, or in something as simple as being that one person who shares their hobby with others. You never know when or where you will have the chance to enlighten someone else's life. Many of you have certainly enlightened mine by sharing your hobby with me. Enjoy!

**Deadline for submitting articles and announcements for the October
Emitter will be September 23,1999.**

This Mail was sent to arc mailing list by:

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**To get help about this list, send a mail with 'help' as the only string in
it's body to majordomo@tin-can.net. If you have problems with this list,
send a mail to arc-owner@tin-can.net.**